A PAGE OF HISTORY

Meinhart the Second (of Görz) who was Meinhart the First of Tyrol, the man who formed the Province into a political unit in the thirteenth century, giving it the name of his castle near Meran, Schloss Tirol, is little remembered today. His wife, Elizabeth, on the other hand, still lives in the memory of the people. The widow of the Emperor Conrad the Fourth and mother of Conradin, she gave Tyrol the impressive background of the Staufer Empire. She set up a permanent memorial to her unhappy son in the Monastery of Stams. Meinhart, through the marriage of his daughter with the son of the Emperor Rudolf I, established the first connection with the House of Hapsburg.

Popular interest concentrates much more on the stirring story of Meinhart's grandchild Margaretha Maultasch ("Pocket-Mouthed Meg"), who drove out her first husband to marry her own cousin. She was excommunicated by the Church on the grounds that this marriage involved a double sin. It was long years before the ban was lifted. She survived her second husband and only son; in 1363 she made over "the land on the Etsch and the Inn Valley with Schloss Tirol and all else appertaining thereto" to Rudolf the Budouer. Fourteen gentlemen of Tyrol put their seals to the deed in the name of all inhabitants of the Duchy, of the "clergy and laymen, nobles and commoners, wether living in the towns or in the country". With this impressive voluntary deed Tyrol began its life in the federation of Austrian Provinces. It soon found an opportunity to prove its loyalty.

Friedl with the Empty Pocket, popular despite his outlawry and excommunication, confirmed the freedom of the Province at the Diet of Meran in 1423, when for the first time burghers

of the ice world of the Ötztal may enjoy eternal spring the same evening 9000 feet below amid vines and chestnut trees. The modern mountain railways make the contrast even more unbelievable.

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THE TYROLESE. You will find among the people of Tyrol as many contrasts as those which characterise its landscape. To Tyrol the Bavarians came from the north and north-east, from the west and north-west the Allemanians, and from the south, Latin races infiltrated. The remnants of an aboriginal population whose source is obscure sought refuge from the invaders among the crags and crannies of the mountains where their descendants are to be found to this day. Throughout the length and breadth of the country you will come across curious names of village and pasture which recall these various races. Tyrol, which resembles Switzerland in this respect, managed to weld these various tribes—and later the people of German, Italian and Ladinian race—together, to live peacefully in a small area. Today these elements have overcome the limitations of nationalism and feel themselves to be above all Tyrolese. Once again the forces making for unity proved stronger than those tending towards separation, and the passes, as the word implies, have become links, not barriers.

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In Tyrol, inhabitants, dialect, costume, methods of building houses and of agriculture

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Egger-Lienz: Dance of Death.

differ from valley to valley and often from village to village. Strong, blond giants are to be found side by side with dark-haired, slender, agile men. In a few disproportionately-built men and women lives on the race of the giants of legend.

As the peasant, so his cattle. In the valley of the Lower Inn the cattle are heavily built and piebald; in the Upper Inn Valley there is a lightly built, grey type, rich in milk, growing in grace and agility as the pasturage becomes more scanty and difficult of access. In the mountain villages and remote enclaves there still survive many individual specimens of breeds which are otherwise becoming extinct.

342 The inhabitant of the valley of the Upper Inn builds his house of stone, he of
592 Lower of wood. The one keeps house and farm undivided, the other divides up
184 the farm and even the house, so that not only may several families live under one roof, but in the four corners of a large kitchen there are sometimes four ranges, each belonging to a different person who is expected to keep within the imaginary lines which mark out his own share of the floor. The Lower Inn rings with laughter and song and no one is ashamed of an illegitimate child. The inhabitant of the Upper Inn is reserved and sparing of speech; with him, the smouldering of no less violent passions is not easily to be detected.

197 There are many varieties of dialect. The people of the Ötztal call "Ferner"
184 what those of the Zillertal name "Kees" and which are called "Gletscher" —glaciers—only by the town-dwellers. The drawling and slurred vowel sounds, the clipped nasal consonants of the mountain dwellers, recall the speech of Latin races. The accent of the lowlander, in contrast, is graceful and often almost affected. In the broad valleys branching off from the main Inn Valley the inhabitants of the inner and outer valleys have little in common. In the Gschnitztal, for instance, Trins is a Romanish settlement, whereas Gschnitz at the foot of the valley is of German
609 origin. One consequence of all this is that anyone who moves from his own parish, even if only to a neighbouring one, is regarded all his lifetime as an "immigrant".